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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 18-24 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 18-24 have been rejected.

Claims AMENDED CLAIMS have been amended in this submission. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Claims CANCELLED CLAIMS have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2 and 4 have been amended to obviate the rejection.

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35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

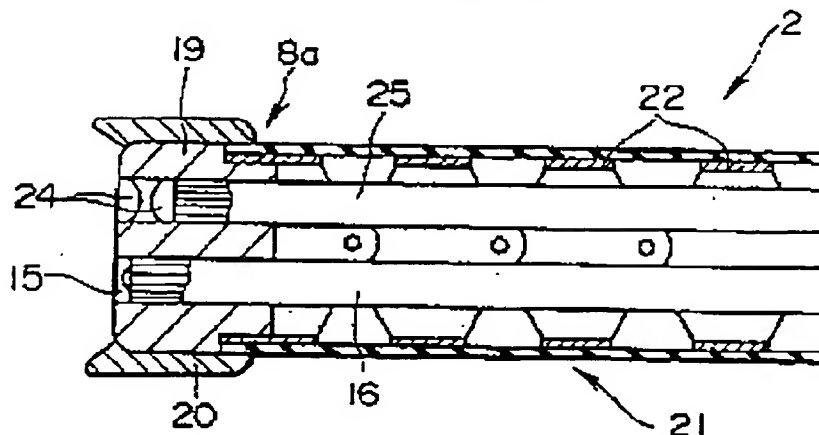
In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-10, 18-20 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Ueda et al. (US Patent No. 5,681,260). Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the reasons that follow.

The Ueda reference discloses:

A guiding apparatus for guiding an insertable body within an inspected object is provided with an insertable body to be inserted into an inspected object, a guided part provided in at least a part of the insertable body and to be magnetically guided and a guiding device provided outside the inspected object and to magnetically guide the guided part. The guiding device includes a guiding part for guiding the guided part and a driving device for moving the guiding part at least two-dimensionally, the guided part and guiding part are to generate a magnetic force acting between them and the guiding part is to guide the guided part with the magnetic force. (Abstract).

In particular, the Examiner pointed to Figure 2, showing the insertable tip of the device:

FIG. 2



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However, neither the above figure nor the accompanying description disclose or suggest a device as recited in amended claim 1.

The Ueda reference does not disclose a device "wherein said imaging unit comprises a single optical window, an image sensor and an illumination source, and wherein the image sensor and the illumination source are situated behind the single optical window" as recited in amended claim 1. Rather, as is clear from the figure, objective lens 24 and light distributing lens 15 are not situated behind a single optical window. Nor would this have been obvious in light of the Ueda reference.

Accordingly, claim 1, and claims 2-4, 6-10, 18-20 and 22-24, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the Ueda reference.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Kucharczyk et al. (US Patent No. 6,626,902). Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

The Kucharczyk reference discloses:

A multi-lumen, multi-functional catheter system comprising a plurality of axial lumens, at least one lumen supporting a functionality other than material delivery and material removal.
(Abstract)

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In particular, the Examiner pointed to Figure 1 of the Kucharczyk reference, which is reproduced below:

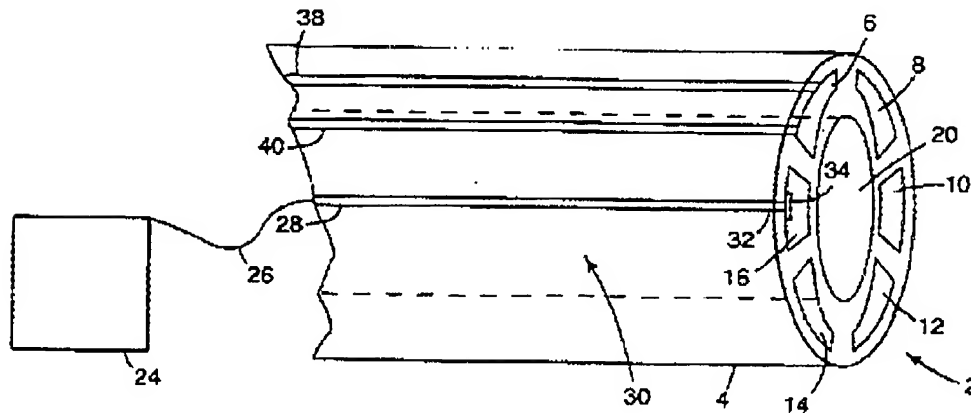


Fig. 1

However, neither Figure 1 of the Kucharczyk reference, nor the accompanying specification disclose or suggest a system for performing in vivo procedures, said system comprising: a tool according to claim 8; and a receiver comprising a recording mechanism." It is noted that insofar as claim 18 depends from claim 8, which in turn depends from claim 1, the elements of those claims are incorporated into claim 18.

It is respectfully submitted that the Kucharczyk reference does not teach a device "wherein said imaging unit comprises a single optical window, an image sensor and an illumination source, and wherein the image sensor and the illumination source are situated behind the single optical window," as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 18, and claims 19 and 20, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the Kucharczyk reference.

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35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Ueda et al. (US Patent No. 5,681,260) in view of Ishikawa et al. (US Patent No. 6,264,611).

Claim 11 is patentable over the combination of the Ueda reference and the Ishikawa reference because they do not together or separately teach or disclose all elements of claim 11, for example, a device "wherein said imaging unit comprises a single optical window, an image sensor and an illumination source, and wherein the image sensor and the illumination source are situated behind the single optical window."

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Ueda et al. (US Patent No. 5,681,260) in view of Snoke et al. (US Patent No. 5,846,221).

Claim 21 is patentable over the combination of the Ueda reference and the Snoke reference because they do not together or separately teach or disclose all elements of claim 21, for example, a device "wherein said imaging unit comprises a single optical window, an image sensor and an illumination source, and wherein the image sensor and the illumination source are situated behind the single optical window."

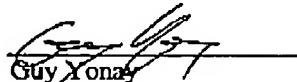
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


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